Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island

Statue of Liberty
National Monument
New York / New Jersey

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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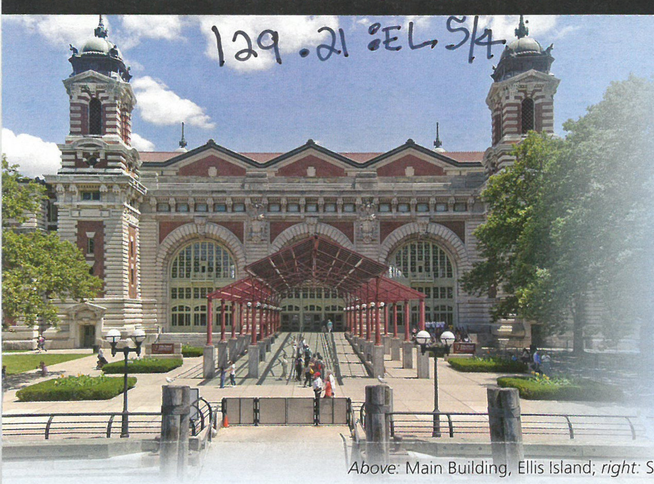


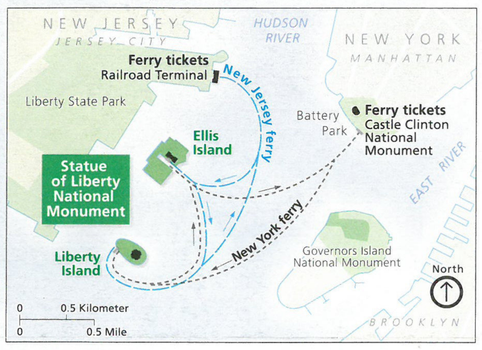
Above: Main Building, Ellis Island; *right:* Statue of Liberty.

Plan Your Visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island
You can reach the sites only by Statue Cruises, LLC:
1-877-523-9849
www.statuecruises.com
Advance purchase is recommended.

Your round-trip ferry ticket includes access to the grounds of Liberty Island and full access to the Immigration Museum at Ellis Island. For Pedestal/Museum and Crown access, you must make specific reservations with Statue Cruises. Pedestal/Museum passes and Crown tickets are limited.

Ferries depart from Battery Park in Manhattan and Liberty State Park in New Jersey.

To visit both islands in one day, plan to take an early ferry. Closed December 25.



For Teachers
To learn more about educational opportunities, look under "For Teachers" on our park websites.

Security and Safety
Due to strict security screening, please do not bring large bags, backpacks, suitcases, or other large items into park.
• All visitors and their belongings are subject to search before boarding vessels. • All weapons and dual-use and dangerous items, including pocket knives, are strictly prohibited. • No animals allowed other than service dogs.
• Private boats are not permitted to dock at either island.
• No skating or skateboarding.

More Information
Statue of Liberty National Monument, which includes Ellis Island, is one of over 390 areas in the National Park System. To learn more visit www.nps.gov. The park is a World Heritage Site.

Statue of Liberty
National Monument
New York, NY 10004
212-363-3200
www.nps.gov/stli
www.nps.gov/elis

Liberty Enlightening the World

Even before it took its place at America's gateway, the Statue of Liberty overwhelmed those who saw it. Parisians, watching the statue's construction in their city in the 1880s, proclaimed it the "eighth wonder of the world." Set atop its pedestal in 1886, it was the tallest structure in New York City—and the tallest statue in the world.

In 1865 a group of French intellectuals led by Edouard de Laboulaye, protesting political repression in their own country, decided to honor the ideals of freedom and liberty with a symbolic gift to the United States. The time was right: The Civil War was over, slavery was abolished, and the nation looked toward its centennial.

Nationalism, prosperity, and new technology forged an era of monument building. Auguste Bartholdi, Laboulaye's young sculptor friend, seized the chance to create a modern-day Colossus. Twenty-one years later and an ocean away, "Liberty Enlightening the World" stood complete in New York Harbor. After the 1886 dedication, the president of France proclaimed that Liberty would "magnify France beyond the seas."

But Liberty's image was already being transformed by its adopted home. Amid massive immigration in the late 1800s, the notion of Liberty as the "Mother of Exiles" touched the minds and hearts of the public despite a growing number of restrictive immigration laws. In 1883 the young writer Emma Lazarus wrote a poem for a fundraiser for the statue's pedestal. She titled it "The New Colossus" after the Colossus of Rhodes, the ancient statue that inspired Bartholdi. Her work gained lasting fame in 1903 when it was inscribed on a bronze plaque and affixed to the pedestal.

As immigration plummeted during World War I, Liberty's role evolved: Staring out from glossy posters, telling citizens to buy war bonds or enlist in the military, Liberty was America personified. Later years have seen the statue's image used to lead political movements, satirize national policy, sell lemons, illuminate living rooms, and attract tourists from around the world.

As you explore Liberty Island and the statue, consider Bartholdi's philosophy: "Colossal statuary does not consist simply in making an enormous statue. It ought to produce an emotion in the breast of the spectator, not because of its volume, but because its size is in keeping with the idea that it interprets, and with the place which it ought to occupy." The shaping and reshaping of its symbolism, over time and throughout the world, make experiencing the original statue in its original setting all the more important—and wondrous.

The New Colossus
By Emma Lazarus, 1883

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

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"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

1811 Star-shaped Fort Wood built on Bedloe's (Liberty) Island.

1865 Laboulaye, Bartholdi, and others conceive idea of a monument to liberty.

1871 Bartholdi tours US, chooses site in New York Harbor.

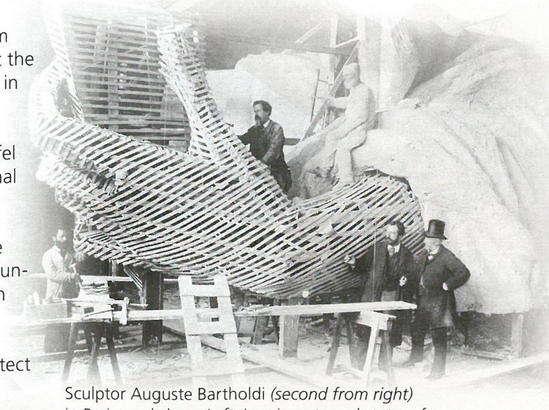
1874 Fundraising for statue begins in France.

1876 Liberty's arm and torch displayed at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.

1879 Gustave Eiffel designs statue's internal framework.

1881–84 Statue assembled in Paris. Foundation work begins on Bedloe's Island.

1884 Noted architect Richard Morris Hunt designs pedestal.



Sculptor Auguste Bartholdi *(second from right)* in Paris workshop. *Left:* Immigrants and statue, from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper,* 1887.

1885 Statue dismantled and shipped to New York. Joseph Pulitzer begins fundraising for pedestal in *New York World.*

1886 Statue reassembled on Bedloe's Island. Dedicated Oct. 28.

1892 Ellis Island immigration station opens.

1916 Munitions depot explosion damages statue's arm; torch closed to public permanently.

1924 Statue of Liberty declared a national monument.

1933 National Park Service takes over administration of statue from War Department.

1956 Bedloe's Island renamed Liberty Island.

1986 Restoration completed for statue's centennial celebration.

2001 Statue closes after September 11 attacks. Island reopens Dec. 20.

2004 Pedestal reopens Aug. 3 with safety and security upgrades.

2009 Crown reopens to visitors July 4.

Your Visit to the Statue of Liberty and Liberty Island

Liberty Island
Liberty Island has a National Park Service Information Center, cafe, bookstore, and gift shop on the grounds. Audio tours are available in several languages. Check at the Information Center for National Park Service Ranger tours and programs.

Museum and Observation Level
A reserved Pedestal/Museum pass allows you to visit the Statue of Liberty exhibit and original torch and to go to the observation level at the top of the pedestal to view the statue's interior. See "Plan Your Visit" above.

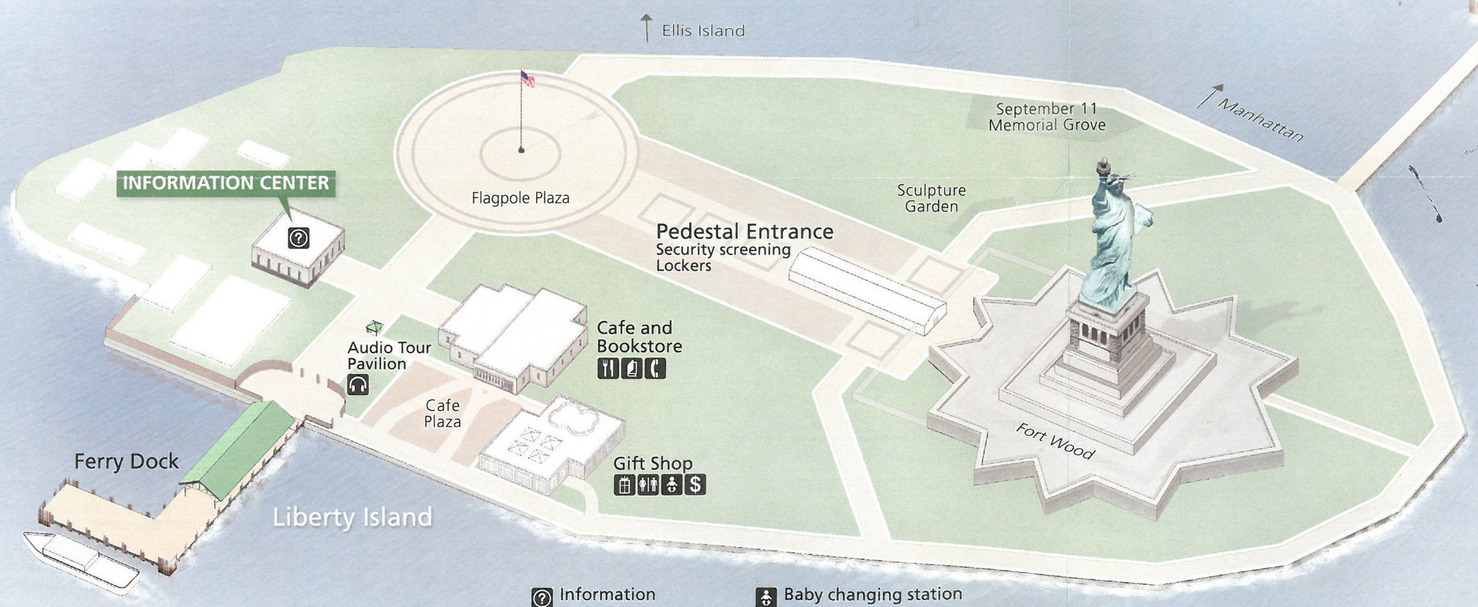
Interior of statue's crown

Crown Access
Crown access is limited and is by reservation only, with a small additional charge. For ticket information, see "Plan Your Visit" above.

Accessibility
We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information go to the information center, ask a park ranger, call, or check our website.

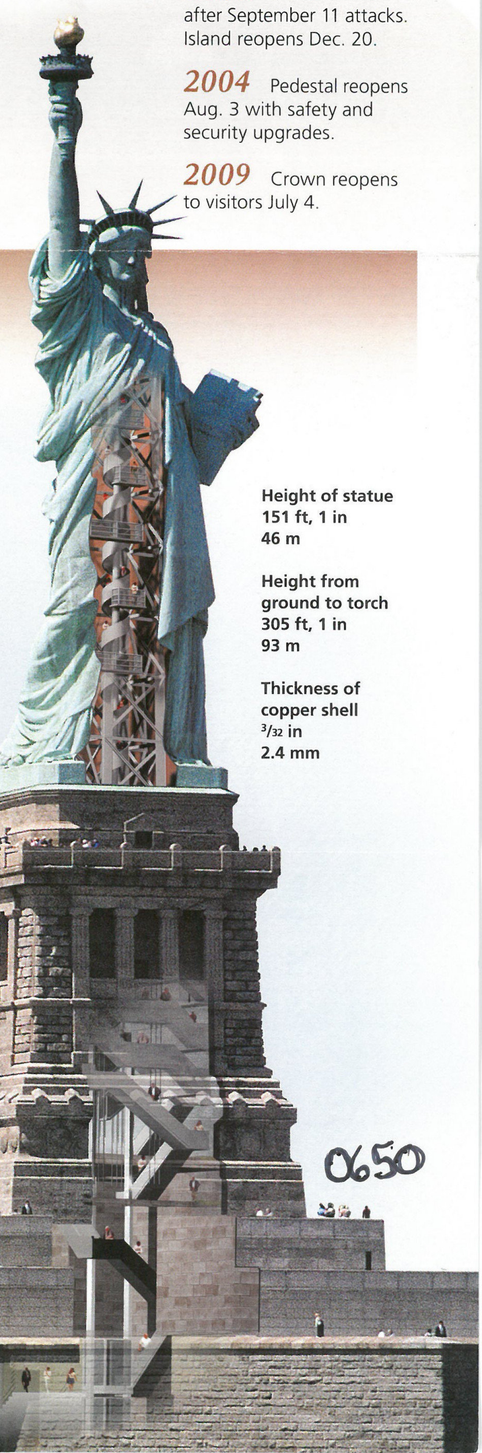
Monument Security Information
A second security screening, similar to airport security procedures, is required for all visitors with Pedestal/Museum passes and Crown tickets. Please allow extra time for this screening.
• A limited locker facility is provided on the island for small items and strollers.
• If you have questions or special needs, contact the park staff before visiting.

For updated park and security policies, please contact the park staff; see "Plan Your Visit" above. If you have questions or need assistance while in the park, please contact a National Park Service Ranger or U.S. Park Police Officer.



- Information
- Food service
- Bookstore
- Gift shop
- Restrooms
- Baby changing station
- Audio tour
- Telephone
- ATM
- All buildings are wheelchair-accessible

North 0 30 meters 0 100 feet



Height of statue
151 ft, 1 in
46 m

Height from ground to torch
305 ft, 1 in
93 m

Thickness of copper shell
3/32 in
2.4 mm

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Ellis Island

Millions of Americans can claim ancestors who came through Ellis Island. Religious persecution, political strife, unemployment, family connections, the lure of adventure: These were the circumstances of the greatest migration in modern history, when shipload after shipload of people, mostly Europeans, came to the United States. Beginning in 1892, the majority took their first steps toward becoming Americans at Ellis Island. Today Ellis Island is a memorial to all who have made this nation their adopted home.

In the decade after the American Revolution, about 5,000 people immigrated to the United States every year. By the early 1900s, that many arrived at Ellis Island each day, with a record 11,747 on April 17, 1907. All told, some 12 million came through Ellis Island. The immigration station at Ellis Island opened on January 1, 1892. Five years later the wooden structure burned, along with many immigration records. On December 17, 1900, a new, fireproof French Renaissance-style building welcomed new arrivals. Ferries and barges brought steerage passengers from steamships. As immigrants entered the building and climbed the stairs, doctors watched for a limp, labored breathing, or other suspected troubles.

In the Registry Room (Great Hall), inspectors asked immigrants their name, home town, occupation, destination, and amount of money they carried—up to 31 questions in all. Those allowed to pass continued downstairs, exchanged money, bought provisions and perhaps rail tickets. A third or so stayed in New York City; others headed elsewhere.

While 20 percent were held back for further medical or legal examination, only about two percent were denied entry.

After the inspection process was transferred to US consulates in the 1920s, only a small number of detained immigrants passed through Ellis Island. In 1954 it closed completely. Buildings deteriorated until restoration began in the 1980s. Today at Ellis Island you can retrace the steps of people pursuing new lives in a new land.

1774 Samuel Ellis purchases island.

1808 Federal government acquires island for harbor defense. Fort Gibson completed 1811.

1855–90 Immigration processing is done by individual states; Castle Garden (now Castle Clinton National Monument) is immigration station for New York State.

1886 Statue of Liberty dedicated.

1890–91 Immigration is now under federal control. New York station is at the Barge Office in Battery Park.

1892 New station opens at Ellis Island; destroyed by fire in 1897.

1900 Present Main Building opens; built of brick trimmed with limestone and granite.

1901–10 8.8 million immigrants arrive in US; 6 million processed at Ellis.

1914–18 WW I curbs immigration; enemy aliens detained at Ellis.

1920s Federal laws set immigration quotas based on national origin. In 1924 US consulates take over inspection and processing. Ellis has deportation center, U.S. Public Health Service hospital, and later a Coast Guard facility.

1939–45 World War II. German, Italian, and Japanese aliens interned at Ellis.

1954 Ellis Island immigration station closed permanently.

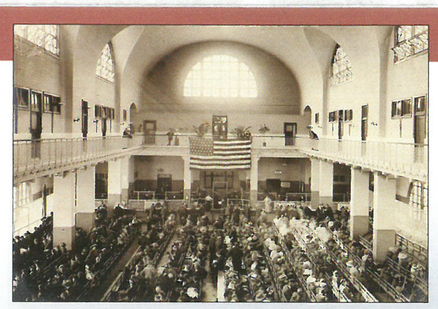
1965 National origin quotas abolished. Ellis Island becomes part of Statue of Liberty National Monument.

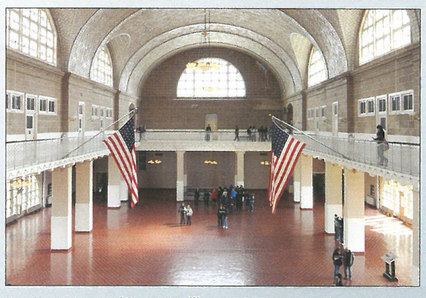
1990 Restored Main Building opens as an immigration museum.

Newly arrived immigrants, early 1900s; worker's identification; immigrant child's teddy bear; inspector's cap.

IMMIGRANTS PHOTO—NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Your Visit to Ellis Island





Registry Room (Great Hall) ca. 1912 and today.

To make the most of your visit, consult the Main Building maps at right and the time chart below.

The **Ellis Island Immigration Museum**, located in the Main Building, has exhibits, theaters, gift shop, cafe, and visitor facilities. Check at the Information Desk for guided tours, programs, and the documentary film schedule.

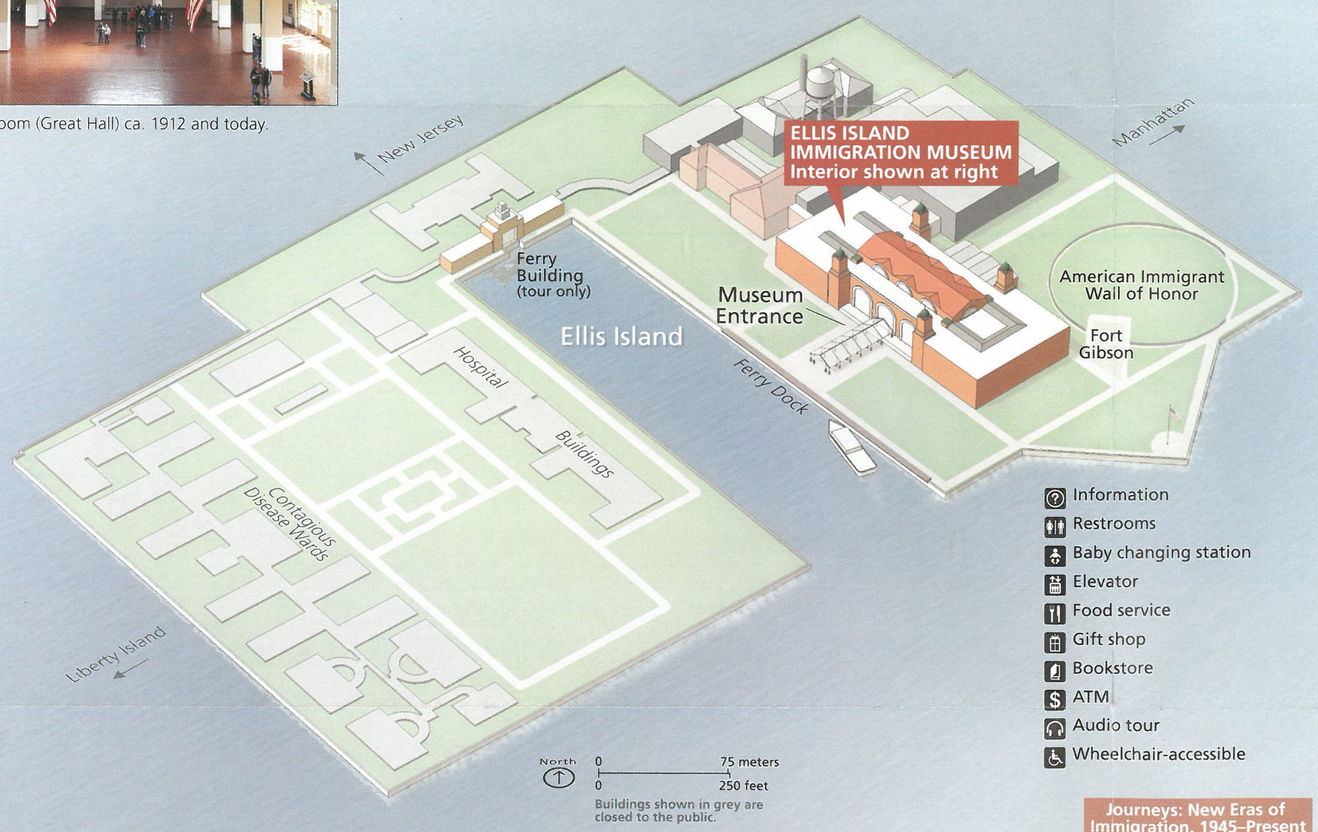
The museum has three floors of exhibits documenting immigrants' experiences at Ellis Island, as well as the general history of immigration to the United States. Audio tours, available in several languages, offer a range of ways to explore the Ellis Island exhibits.

The **Ferry Building**, erected in the 1930s, has an exhibit on the history of medical care at Ellis Island. You can visit the building by guided tour only; check schedules at the information desk in the Main Building.

The rest of Ellis Island's buildings—hospital, contagious disease wards, morgue, baggage and dormitory building, offices, housing, and maintenance facilities—are closed to the public.

Fort Gibson, on Ellis Island 1811–1860s, was near today's Wall of Honor. Its foundation was uncovered during work on the Wall, and is left visible. For more about Ellis Island's military history, visit "Ellis Island Chronicles" exhibit on the museum's third floor.

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation built the **American Immigrant Wall of Honor** to commemorate all immigrants to America. Through donations, people can have a name added to the wall. *Note: This is not a comprehensive list of the 12 million immigrants who passed through Ellis Island.* The Wall is in back of the Main Building.



- Information
- Restrooms
- Baby changing station
- Elevator
- Food service
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- Audio tour
- Wheelchair-accessible

How Much Time Do You Have?

One Hour or Less

Choose one of the following:

Take main audio tour (30–45 minutes).

Visit Registry Room (Great Hall) and second-floor exhibits.

Take a National Park Service Ranger-guided tour (45 minutes).

Two to Four Hours

All activities at left, plus one of the following:

Take secondary level audio tour (30–60 minutes).

See the documentary film "Island of Hope, Island of Tears" (45 minutes).

See exhibits on first and third floors (1–2 hours).

All Day

All activities at left, plus:

Take the audio tour "Journeys: The Peopling of America 1550–1890."

Take the audio tour "Journeys: New Eras of Immigration, 1945–Present."

Other Activities

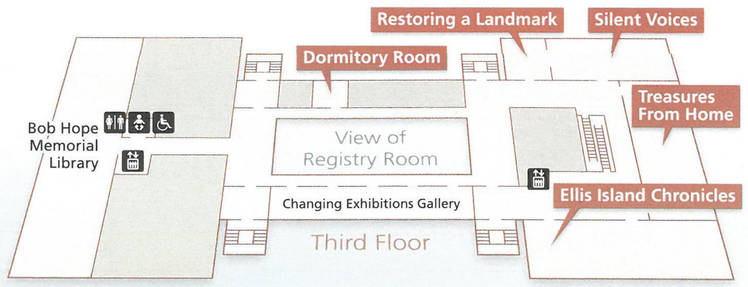
Look up ancestors in the American Family Immigration History Center (fee).

Visit the American Immigrant Wall of Honor.

Visit Fort Gibson.

Take a guided tour of the Ferry Building (1 hour).

Ellis Island Immigration Museum



The **Bob Hope Memorial Library** has historical research materials on Ellis and the Statue of Liberty. Hope immigrated through Ellis Island in 1908.

A restored **Dormitory Room** shows accommodations for detainees, ca. 1908.

Changing Exhibits gallery offers temporary exhibits related to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

Restoring a Landmark describes restoration projects led by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the National Park Service.

Silent Voices explores the aftermath of the 1954 closing and abandonment of the immigration station.

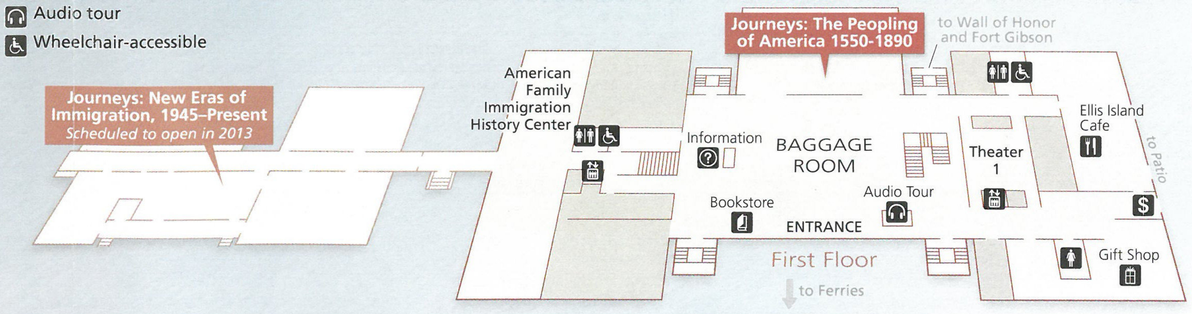
Treasures From Home displays over 2,000 possessions that immigrants brought from their homelands. Most were donated by immigrants or their families.

Ellis Island Chronicles traces the history and expansion of the island from when the federal government took over in 1808 (3.3 acres) to today's 27.5 acres.

Through America's Gate follows the immigration process: initial questioning in the Registry Room, medical inspections, and for some, temporary detention. About 20 percent were held for additional medical or legal examinations. Detained immigrants could plead their case to the Board of Special Inquiry in the **Hearing Room**; most were allowed through.

In the **Registry Room**, or Great Hall, immigrants underwent medical and legal examinations. Following inspection they walked down the "Stairs of Separation." Most boarded New York- or New Jersey-bound ferries. Some awaited further examinations, which could lead to detention or exclusion. At the bottom of the stairs, many immigrants met family members or friends at the "Kissing Post." Be sure to look up at the magnificent Guastavino tiled ceiling, installed by 1918.

Peak Immigration Years explores the massive immigration wave of 1880–1924: why people left their homelands and how they adapted to new lives in the United States. The exhibit also documents how changing attitudes toward immigration led to new laws and processing procedures.



Journeys: New Eras of Immigration, 1945–Present continues the immigration story beyond the Ellis Island years to the present day. Scheduled to open in 2013.

American Family Immigration History Center, operated by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, has a database of immigrant ships' manifests from the Port of New York 1892–1924. Search here (fee) or visit www.ellisisland.org.

You enter through the same doors as the immigrants into the **Baggage Room**. They would have left belongings here before continuing with the examination process. Today there's an Information Desk, audio tour pickup, bookstore, and exhibit about the room's original use.

Journeys: The Peopling of America 1550–1890 begins in the former railroad ticket office behind the Baggage Room. It tells the story of immigration to America before the US government opened Ellis Island.

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